

03500.014620.1



PATENT APPLICATION

ZFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Noriyoshi UEDA, et al.) Examiner: Omar Flores-Sanchez
Application No.: 10/654,986) Group Art Unit: 3724
Filed: September 5, 2003) Confirmation No.: 5648
For: SHEET PUNCHING DEVICE AND) March 7, 2006
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS :
HAVING THE SAME)

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

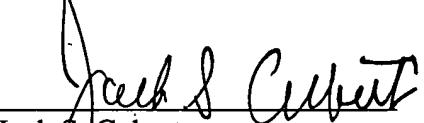
Sir:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward their representative during the telephone interview conducted on February 13, 2006.

In the interview, Applicants' attorney inquired whether the Examiner had considered the common ownership of the reference U.S. Patent 6,386,080 (Okamoto, et al.) and the present application so that Okamoto, et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c); "Guidelines Setting Forth a Modified Policy Concerning the Evidence of Common Ownership, or an Obligation of Assignment to the Same Person, as Required by 35 U.S.C. 103(c)," 1241 O.G. 96 (Dec. 26, 2000). The Examiner indicated that he had not considered the common ownership.

Applicants' undersigned attorney, William M. Wannisky, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack S. Cubert
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,245

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JSC/cmg

DC_MAIN 233189v1